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The Dominican Future

CPYRGHT

The highly controversial ousting of strongly anti-Communist GEN. WESSIN Y WESSIN from the Dominican Republic is one of several factors in that confused situation which makes it impossible to predict the future.

- A plus in the complicated state of affairs is that provisional PRESIDENT GARCIA GODOY is himself anti-Communist.

- Another is that whereas the leftist-led rebels made six demands when a compromise settlement was first talked, none of them was accepted.

Over against this may be cited several less favorable factors, such as—

- Exiled revolutionaries are returning to the Dominican Republic, among them MAXIMO LOPEZ MOLINA, president of the Chinese-line Popular Dominican Movement.

- Many arms have been concealed, and Communists are organizing action groups in various parts of the country, as are followers of GENERAL WESSIN. There could be a head-on clash.

- The Dominican Republic is in bad shape, from an economic standpoint, and many Dominicans are unwilling to work. The United States will have to underwrite the economy for a long time.

U. S. News & World Report for September 27 has a comprehensive article on the situation in the Dominican Republic. It covers the foregoing points, and also goes into considerable detail concerning the ouster of GENERAL WESSIN.

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A U. S. official is quoted as summing up the American reaction to WESSIN by declaring that the general is "so rigidly anti-Communist that he creates more Communists than he destroys." Nevertheless, it is admitted by Americans that Wessin held off a Communist take-over in April until the U. S. Marines could land.

There is conflicting testimony as to the precise circumstances of Wessin's sudden departure. It is claimed, and denied, that our CIA attempted to bribe him to leave. No "bribe" was actually passed, it appears. At all events, Wessin was forcibly flown to Florida, and stripped of his army commission.

A charge not dealt with in the magazine article referred to is that in deporting Wessin, the U. S. and the Organization of American States violated the Institutional Act which they had devised, prohibiting the deportation of, and guaranteeing freedom to return home to any Dominican citizen.

One thing seems fairly certain: The Dominican Republic is sitting on a powder keg, and it will take all the ingenuity and authority of provisional PRESIDENT GARCIA GODOY to prevent an explosion. We shall probably have to keep our 82nd airborne division troops on the island at least throughout the nine-month incumbency of the GARCIA GODOY government.